

Mayor Larson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll showed Councilpersons DeGross, Koosmann, Lee, Peterson, Sandow and Unruh were present. Also present were CT Rosenow, Chief Darwin, Fire Chief Holden, Ambulance Co-Director Julie Lee, Linda Main, Barry and Cindy Milune and Carlton DeWitt. Anna Mewis, Greg Adams and Lynn McIntyre arrived after the meeting started.

DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Voice vote carried.

Unruh moved and Sandow seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021 Regular Council meeting. Voice vote carried.

Peterson moved and DeGross seconded a motion to approve disbursements. Roll call vote carried with all councilpersons present voting yes.

In Public Comments, Ambulance Co-Director updated the council that the ambulance department had received more donations in memory of Paula DeWitt and the new power load cot has been installed at no cost to the department. Lee also noted the ambulance, fire and police departments are planning to host National Night Out this year in August and their department has purchased a new copier.

In the summer rec committee report Unruh informed the council the program is moving forward with the transition to new leadership, registration has opened up for this summer's participation and installing the scoreboards is in progress.

There was no library report.

There was no Public Works report.

A written Police report was submitted and Chief Darwin let the council know that the lettering is complete on the new squad, they are doing training at the county for new computer system and the estimate to recover the seat in the 2014 squad was \$600 and has been scheduled. Darwin also noted, he had listed the community center stove and refrigerator on Wisconsin Surplus Auction and they have been sold.

In the Clerk-Treasurer report, Rosenow stated water bills would be delayed in order to wait until the city-wide running of water was lifted.

In the Mayor's report, Larson let the council know that he had spoken with library board member Craig Anderson and the library board is interested in having a meeting between their full board and the City Council to discuss library operations and the new building.

In Old Business, Sara Hinz of Cedar Corporation updated that the drawings and specs for the new building are about 90% complete and they are hoping to put the project out for bid by the first part of April. Bids would be awarded in May to stay on track with grant guidelines.

In New Business, Barry and Cindy Milune requested permission from the council to keep five dogs, stating they didn't realize the City's ordinance limited the number to three and that two of the dogs are elderly so the exception should not exist for long. Linda Main spoke on behalf of the Milunes, stating they had taken in her parents' dog when her father passed away and asked for the council to grant the exception so they could keep the dog. Lee moved and Unruh seconded a motion to grant permission to exceed the three dog

limit until the two older dogs pass away. Voice vote carried. Koosmann was absent for the vote as he left the meeting for a fire call.

Unruh explained to the council that the Parks & Rec committee met March 8th and reviewed several area ordinances regarding the request to allow chickens in residentially zoned areas. After consideration of the other ordinances, Unruh moved and DeGross seconded a motion to approve the recommendation of the Parks & Rec committee to proceed with drafting an ordinance based on the City of New Richmond's to allow chickens in residential zoning. Voice vote carried with Peterson voting no and Koosmann absent.

Also discussed at the March 8th Parks & Rec meeting was a new identification system for the recycling center. It was noted that the wallet-sized cards currently being used are not a good option for checking that only City or Town of Forest residents are using the recycling center. Options were discussed and the committee recommended a printable tag to hang from the rear-view mirror, which could be changed annually. DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a recommendation to the full council to change the recycling ID's to the new style. Voice vote carried, with Koosmann absent.

DeGross moved and Sandow seconded a motion to approve acceptance of State/Municipal Finance and Maintenance Agreements with DOT for resurface project on STH 128 in 2025. Voice vote carried with all councilpersons voting yes.

Discussion regarding a proposed change to the personnel policy to account for new police schedules that are now 10-hour days was tabled as wording did not reflect that the Chief still works an eight hour day. Attorney Lindquist will be consulted to update wording.

Lee moved and Unruh seconded a motion to approve Operator's license applications for Carol M Schmit and Isaac F Nilssen. Voice vote carried.

DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a motion to declare the 1989 Ford rescue vehicle as surplus property. Voice vote carried.

Craig Adams of Cedar Corporation arrived after the meeting started, therefore agenda item 9 was re-visited. Adams informed the council that Cedar is completing the grading plan and looking at potential lot layouts for the old school property and this should be completed within the week. Bids will be let for the demo project in early to mid April.

DeGross moved and Koosmann seconded a motion to adjourn. Voice vote carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Shari Rosenow
Clerk-Treasurer